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AMENDMENT WITH RCE
Application No. 09/970,389

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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In re Application of: Donald J. Merkley et al.
Application No.: 09/970,389
Filing Date: October 2, 2001
Group Art Unit: 1791
Examiner: Mark Halpern
Confirmation No.: 9683
For: Method and Apparatus for Reducing Impurities in Cellulose
Fibers for Manufacture of Fiber Reinforced Cement Composite
Materials

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**AMENDMENT
PURSUANT TO REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION
(Submission under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114(c))**

Dear Sir:

Applicants submit this response to an Office Action made final and mailed on
May 29, 2009. The amendments and remarks as provided herein are filed pursuant to a Request

for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 submitted concurrently herewith. Such papers are timely filed with the appropriate fees, including fees for an RCE and for an extension of time.

Applicants first wish to thank the Examiner for being available for an interview held with the Examiner and Applicants' representatives on November 13, 2009.

In view of the amendments and remarks provided herewith, Applicants respectfully request entry of this Amendment, believed necessary to bring prosecution to a conclusion and to deal justly by Applicants and the public. Applicants believe this Amendment defines their invention in claims that are patentably distinct to provide them with patent protection to which they are justly entitled. No new matter has been introduced with this paper and Applicants believe that no additional search is required on the part of the Examiner. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections, and requests allowance of claims pending in their Application for patent.

Provided for consideration with the above-identified Application are:

Amendments to the Claims reflected in the Listing of Claims that begin on page 3;

Statement of Substance of Interview under 37 C.F.R § 1.133 that begins on page 9;

Remarks that begin on page 11;

Conclusion that begins on page 17 of this paper; and

Appendix at the end of this paper provided as Exhibit A.